

Building resilience not reliance.



Freedom of Information Policy

We are a Rights Respecting School in accordance with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). Our aim is to promote and protect the rights of all children in Ganton School to an education, to be healthy, to have a childhood, to be treated fairly and to be heard so that they can survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential. Ganton School puts the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of all policies, practice and ethos.

Everyone at Ganton School who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by;

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
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Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Headteacher: Mr Alec Young

Review Date: February 2025

An inclusive community committed to excellence in personalised learning and well-being.

Introduction

Ganton School is a public authority that must comply with the Freedom of Information Act (FOI). This policy outlines our approach to dealing with FOI requests. Requests relating to air, water, land, the natural world or the built environment are subject to the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) and will also be dealt with under this policy.

The information the school already makes available to the public is included in our Publication Scheme which can be found here www.gantonschool.org.uk

Requests

Any person has a legal right to ask for access to information held by the school and requests do not need to make specific reference to FOI or EIR in order to be valid.

FOI requests must be made in writing and this can include email, requests for environmental information may also be made verbally.

The school will respond to all requests within 20 school days, where school holidays mean this period would exceed 60 working days the school will instead respond within 60 working days.

The requestor is entitled to be informed whether the school holds the information and to be provided with a copy unless there is a relevant legal exemption within the Act. Where the school finds it is necessary to withhold information in accordance with an exemption this will be explained in writing and details of how to appeal against the decision will be provided.

The school may refuse to supply information where the cost of doing so exceeds the statutory limit. In such cases the refusal notice will clearly explain how completing the request would exceed the limit. Where possible the school will try to work with the applicant to refine the scope of their request with a view to providing some level of useful information.

Where a person wishes to access information about themselves or their children the details will normally be exempt from disclosure under FOI. Information of this type can instead be accessed through the Data Protection Act and/or the Pupil Information Regulations please see our Data Protection Policy (www.gantonschool.org.uk) for details.

Responsibilities

The Governing body has delegated responsibility for responding to FOI requests to the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher has nominated himself, Alec Young, Ganton School, 294 Anlaby Park Road South, Hull, HU4 7JB or email admin@gantonschool.org.uk as the first point of contact for FOI requests.

Appeals Process

Appeals or complaints about the administration of an FOI or EIR request will be dealt with through the school's complaints procedure; we will aim to respond within 20 working days.

Where the requestor remains dissatisfied with the outcome of their appeal the school will inform the complainant of their right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), see below. The ICO will not normally consider complaints if the requestor has not first attempted to use the school's appeals process.

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

(If writing or emailing ICO requests that a contact telephone number is included)

Information on FOI and EIR is available on the ICO's website ico.org.uk

Review

This policy and the associated Publication Scheme will be agreed by the Board of Governors and reviewed every 3 years.

Initial Equality Impact Assessment																												
Impact Groups			Pupils			Staff			Families			Governors			Volunteers			Visitors			Wider Community							
			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓							
Does or could this policy have a negative impact on any of the following?																												
Age			Disability			Gender/ Gender Identity			Marriage/ Marital status			Pregnancy or Maternity			Race			Religion or Belief			Sexual Orientation			Verdict				
Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	Y	N	
	✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
Does or could this policy help to promote equality for any of the following?																												
Age			Disability			Gender/ Gender Identity			Marriage/ Marital status			Pregnancy or Maternity			Race			Religion or Belief			Sexual Orientation			Verdict				
Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	Y	N	
✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓	
Does data collected from the equality groups have a positive impact on this policy?																												
Age			Disability			Gender			Gender Identity			Pregnancy or Maternity			Race			Religion or Belief			Sexual Orientation			Verdict				
Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	Y	N	
✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓	
Conclusion:						We have come to the conclusion after taking an initial equality impact assessment that a full assessment is / is not required.																						
Status of Policy:						Existing Policy											✓											
						New/Proposed Policy																						
						Updated Policy																						
Initial Equality Impact Assessment completed by:																												
Alec Young																												
Initial Equality Impact Assessment approved by:																												
SLT																												
Date: 07.02.2020																												